

help children with cancer after he was gone.

Today the Chepokas family has been joined by others in the community and around the country who have agreed to help keep this promise and help in the fight against cancer. The Pinky Swear Foundation has raised millions of dollars for different events for this cause.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Pinky Swear Day and a great time to recognize the wonderful work of this foundation. Mitch's bravery, selflessness, and heart continue to live on to help others.

MAUI FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, for 35 years, Maui Family Support Services has been helping to build strong, healthy families on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

Last year alone, the organization assisted over 5,000 people in need, which included: making 4,466 home visits; helping 136 people access mental health, substance abuse, or domestic violence services; and providing developmental screenings for 953 children.

Additionally, thousands of people have gone through the organization's programs for early childhood development, teen substance abuse prevention, and fatherhood involvement, helping to build and strengthen local families and communities.

One in eight children in Hawaii lives in poverty, and it is organizations like Maui Family Support Services that play a critical role in making sure that our keiki and local families get the support and services they need.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you to this great organization for the service that they have provided for over 35 years.

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RECOGNIZING DANIEL LYONS

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, you may know, and others may know, and may have heard about the wildfires that swept through central Washington this past summer, destroying many homes, lives, wildstock, and livestock across Washington State. Tragically, they also took the lives of three brave firefighters.

On August 19, 25-year-old Daniel Lyons, who is also a firefighter, was with his friends and partners, Richard Wheeler, Andrew Zajac, and Tom Zbyszewski, when their vehicle was overcome by flames. Daniel made it out of the fire truck alive but suffered burns over 60 percent of his body.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with Daniel. After he

had spent 3 months undergoing treatment at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, he has a positive attitude about life, and is excited about his opportunity to continue to serve.

This young man still wants to be a police officer. He lost his fingertips in this fire. He still believes that he—and I know he can do this, and I want to be there for him—can accomplish his goal of continuing to serve as a police officer in the State of Washington.

As a former cop of 33 years, I could not be more proud of Daniel. He is a real-life hero. I will always remember his friends and partners.

LET'S HAVE A MOMENT OF ACTION

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, Faisal Shahzad was already on the no-fly list when he attempted to bomb Times Square in May of 2010. If he had decided to walk into a gun store that day, he would have walked out with a gun in hand. Fortunately, Shahzad's bomb failed to go off. But had he, instead, purchased a military-style weapon that day, it could have been very different.

It is absolutely against common sense that suspected terrorists can walk into a gun store and purchase any firearm that they would like. They can't walk onto a plane, mind you, but they can purchase a military-style assault weapon and wreak havoc on a community.

Seventy-seven percent of the American people believe we should close this loophole. The Republicans have an option. A bill by their Republican colleague from New York (Mr. KING) would close that loophole.

I ask my colleagues on the Republican side to listen to Mr. KING and the American people and not to the NRA and the gun manufacturers. We have had enough moments of silence. For once, let's have a moment of action.

STUDENT VISA SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss important legislation that will help keep our country safe.

In light of recent tragedies across the globe, our national security has been at the forefront of our minds. As elected officials, we have a responsibility to do everything we can to protect our Nation. That is why I reintroduced H.R. 4089, the Student Visa Security Improvement Act, to further address potential threats to our national security.

It is clear there are significant gaps of vulnerabilities that must be addressed in our student visa program.

This bill would provide additional scrutiny for foreign students and exchange applicants, and put mechanisms into place to ensure students are in this country for their intended purpose, rather than to do us harm.

My legislation will safeguard our universities, communities, and our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

CLOSE THE TERRORIST GUN LOOPHOLE

(Mr. HUFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed bipartisan legislation to better protect our Nation by making our Visa Waiver Program more rigorous. That is because we recognized, on a bipartisan basis, that legal loopholes that make Americans less safe must be closed.

Why can't we bring that same spirit to commonsense gun violence legislation? That is a rhetorical question because I think we all know that the gun manufacturing and sales industry and their puppet, the NRA, have a stranglehold on the Republican majority in this Congress that has kept Congress silent for years on this issue, but that silence will no longer be tolerated.

More than 2,000 suspects on the FBI terrorist watch list have legally purchased guns in the United States in recent years. Thankfully, one brave Republican has dared to confront the gun lobby by introducing a bill to close this loophole. I demand a vote on that bill.

Americans are tired of hearing thoughts and prayers in response to mass shootings. They are sick of our regularly scheduled moments of silence. Our silence has become the problem.

Americans want action to address the gun violence epidemic in this country. There is no better way to start than the bipartisan bill prohibiting suspected terrorists on the terrorist watch list from stockpiling assault weapons.

Let's have a vote on H.R. 1076. It is time to end Congress' shameful silence on this critical national security issue.

RECOGNIZING VALOR CHRISTIAN'S STATE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Valor Christian High School football team.

On Saturday night, the Eagles rallied to a 29-26 victory over Pomona to capture the State title for the sixth time in seven seasons.

The comeback victory achieved by the team is a testament to their character and tenacity. The players stood